

Barbecue ash warning

A FIRE chief has warned residents not to discard embers from their barbecues in their bins following a dustcart blaze.

Crews were scrambled last week after flames broke out in a waste lorry in Plumberow Avenue, Hockley.

Leading firefighter Rick Jones, of Hawkwell Fire Station, said: "It seems someone put hot embers into their bin and these set light to other materials in the cart. It is vital ashes from these barbecues are disposed of safely and properly."

"Empty the spent ash on to bare garden soil. Never put it in the dustbin."

£9.3k haul burgled

BURGLARS forced the window of a home to get inside.

The crooks jemmied open the ground-floor window of the home in Chancel Close, Laindon, causing £150 damage.

Once inside, they stole a haul worth £9,300, including three games consoles, an iPod, games and a DVD player.

Witnesses to the break-in, which happened between 10pm on Sunday, and 7am the next day, can call detectives at the Basildon CID target team, on 0300 3334444.

Thieves take from garage

TOOLS and a vacuum cleaner worth £250 were stolen from a garage in Kenneth Road, Pitsea.

Crooks got into the unlocked garage and stole the haul between 9pm on Thursday, June 30, and 7pm the next day.

Witnesses can call police at Pitsea on 0300 3334444 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

Police catch wanted man

A MAN wanted by police has been arrested.

Last month, officers issued an appeal to find Mark Cane, 23, in connection with a violent incident in Southend.

He was arrested on Monday and has been bailed until Tuesday, August 9, pending further inquiries.

GROUP PLANS TO WAIT ON LEGAL PLOTS UNTIL BAILIFFS GO



■ Legal manoeuvre? Travellers say they will move to legal pitches, outlined above in red, next to the illegal Dale Farm camp

Travellers threaten to move next door

TRAVELLERS have warned they will move back to their illegal camp once bailiffs have left after the £18million eviction.

Families facing eviction from the 51 illegal pitches threatened to relocate a few metres to the 40 pitches which have planning permission on the same site.

Traveller Kathleen McCarthy, who lives on the illegal Dale Farm site, said families will then move back to the unauthorised land afterwards.

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She said: "Everyone has family on the legal site, so people will stay there and move back on to the land as soon as the bailiffs go."

Most of the legal and illegal areas of the site at Crays Hill are owned by the same extended family of travellers, known as the Sheridan Clan, who originate from County Limerick in Ireland.

Many authorised pitches are vacant for much of the year.

Richard Sheridan, a spokesman for the site, claimed it highlighted the absurd nature of the situation.

He said: "It will cost £18million to remove people from their homes, but nothing just to leave them where they are."

The legal pitches are generally larger than unauthorised ones and could each accommodate three or four families.

Travellers claim the legal plots are temporarily vacant while owners travel through the summer, but they will be welcome to

move on to them after an eviction.

Council leader Tony Ball, said: "This raises the question why people are not on the legal pitches now. If there are empty ones or enough room, why do they not go there before the eviction and avoid the costs?"

"There is a risk that if we carry out the eviction, people will move on to the legal site, provided the occupancy levels are not breached."

"If they are, we will have to look at that separately."

Awards celebrate students of south Essex

OUTSTANDING students have been honoured at an awards event held by South Essex College.

The Celebrating Success event saw almost 160 students from across the college's campuses in Southend, Basildon and Thurrock come together for the awards ceremony in the Southend campus building, in Luker Road.

Students were selected from more than 8,000 fellow pupils and from a range of courses.

Addressing the students, college principal and chief executive Jan Hodges said: "Events such as this are important to show we are celebrating student success, but are key in demonstrating how we're helping regenerate south Essex."

As well as the awards, the evening saw media and creative arts students perform short dramatic and musical pieces, with excerpts from shows including Monty Python musical Spamalot, plus a taster of work done by the college's fashion students.

The college sees the event as a celebration of the varied courses it

offers, as well as the diversity of its students, who range from teenagers aged 14 to mature students.

Many of the students who received awards are now trying to find employment, or enrolling on to further courses and degrees, both at the college and further afield.

Council wins £4.8m boost for transport

Other plans being mooted are to make the most of public trans-

"The plans remain the same as